

I support media diversity

Regarding Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcastmedia ownership rules, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry. I am greatly concerned that the Bush Administration and their corporate supporters are influencing FCC commissioners to weaken our right to be fully informed through free and honest press and broadcast news. Weakening the rules that protect the public's right to know strikingly parallels the destruction of a free and honest press in NAZI Germany from 1923 through WWII. Taking the chance that this might sound alarmist to this Republican Regime, I believe the Bush Administration truly wants to control what the public hears and sees through all type of media. They are supported by huge corporations and are using the corporations to ultimately control how people think. It's a NAZI tactic. WAKE UP. You're all being duped by Fuerer G. W. Bush.

Further, I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited. Additionally, there are many people in this country who do not have access to media diversity and must depend on radio, newspapers and network news for information. The FCC must protect the citizens' right to know. This is the U.S.A. for God's sake!

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition to the official hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA, I strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings elsewhere around the nation to solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

Sharon Sweeney